



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

2008 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey

Oklahoma State Profile

The 2008 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey shows that Oklahoma farmers and ranchers are irrigating fewer acres. According to the report, 461 thousand acres of farmland in Oklahoma were irrigated in 2008. This is a decrease from the 509 thousand acres irrigated in 2003.

In addition, fewer acres were irrigated with sprinkler systems in 2008 than in 2003. During this five year period, the area irrigated by sprinkler systems decreased 8 percent to 399 thousand acres in 2008. The area with gravity irrigation declined 12 percent to 68 thousand acres in 2008.

Water Applied

Between 2003 and 2008, the total quantity of water applied decreased 12 percent to 525 thousand acre-feet of water. With the corresponding decrease in acres irrigated the average acre-feet applied by all methods decreased from 1.2 to 1.1 acre feet per acre.

	2008	2003	Percent Change
Farms with Irrigation	1,454	1,819	-20
Acres Irrigated	461,000	509,000	-9.4
Acre-feet Applied	525,000	608,000	-13.6
Sprinkler System Only	1.1 acre-feet	1.2 acre-feet	NA
Gravity Flow Systems Only	1.3 acre-feet	1.4 acre-feet	NA

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Water Source

The number of acres irrigated using ground water and on-farm water decreased from 2003, while the number of acres irrigated using off-farm water increased.

	2008	2003	Percent Change
Ground Water			
Acres Irrigated	382,000	413,000	-8
Acre-feet Applied	435,000	507,000	-14
On-Farm Water			
Acres Irrigated	36,000	63,000	-43
Acre-feet Applied	34,000	60,000	-43
Off-Farm Water			
Acres Irrigated	46,000	37,000	+24
Acre-feet Applied	56,000	41,000	+37

Irrigation Wells

Since 2003, the number of wells with flow meters increased 396 percent to 495 wells. The number of wells with backflow prevention devices also increased. In 2008, backflow prevention devices were on 2,550 wells, an increase of 9 percent.

In 2008, the average well depth increased 17 feet to a depth of 237 feet. The average depth to the bowls increased from 182 feet in 2003 to 202 feet in 2008. Furthermore, the average depth to water increased by 6 feet to 119 feet.

Oklahoma State Profile

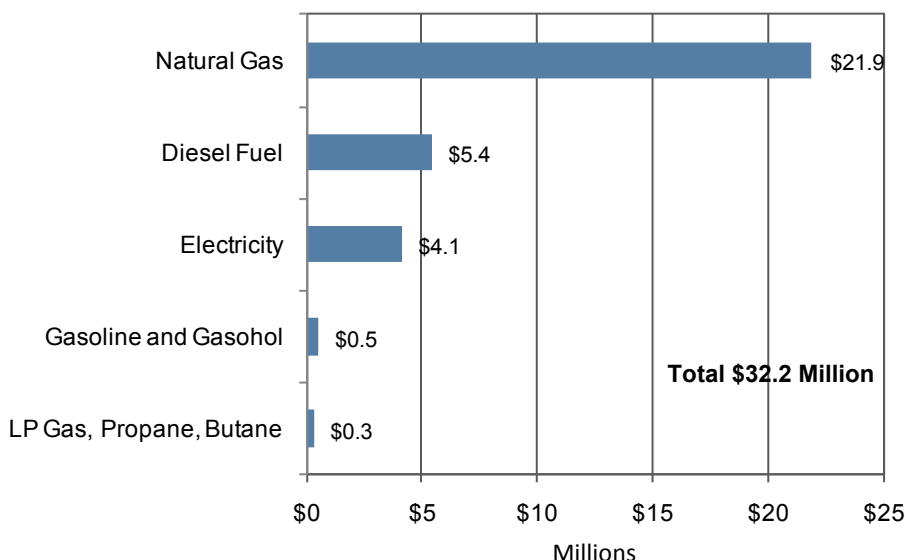
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Irrigation Expenses

Farmers and ranchers spent \$16.4 million on expenses related to irrigation equipment, facilities, land improvements and computer technology in 2008. Of those expenses, 54 percent was used for replacement of existing equipment, 26 percent for new expansion and 20 percent for water conservation.

The total expenses for energy to power pumps increased 91 percent since 2003. With 21 percent fewer pumps used in 2008, the energy expenses for pumps totaled \$32.2 million.

Energy Expenses for Pumps, 2008



Oklahoma's Top 5 Irrigated Crops

1. **Wheat**, 147,000 acres
2. **Corn**, 95,000 acres
3. **Cotton**, 60,000 acres
4. **Other Hay**, 35,000 acres
5. **Sorghum for Grain**, 27,000 acres

Energy and Water Conservation

Between 2003 and 2008, a total of 568 farms implemented changes in equipment or management practices that reduced energy use and/or conserved water. Nearly 44 percent of these farms reported reduced energy cost and 46 percent reported a reduction in the amount of water applied.

Additionally, in 2008 there were 3 farms that purchased a total of 90 acre-feet of reclaimed water at \$33 per acre-foot.

2008	Farms	Acres Irrigated
Recycled Water	77	5,163
Reclaimed Water	40	3,775

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Oklahoma Irrigated Horticultural Operations Overview

	2008	1998
Irrigated Horticultural Operations with:		
Area Under Protection (operations)	184	118
Square Feet Irrigated	2,863,686	3,401,000
Area in the Open (operations)	154	75
Acres Irrigated	19,836	4,905
Irrigated Operations by Type of Irrigation: <i>Area under Protection</i>		
Hand Watered		
Operations	142	99
Square Feet Irrigated	1,389,459	2,378,000
Sprinkler System		
Operations	68	36
Square Feet Irrigated	824,007	822,000
Drip Irrigation		
Operations	33	29
Square Feet Irrigated	674,400	125,000
Irrigated Operations by Type of Irrigation: <i>Area in the Open</i>		
Hand Watered		
Operations	34	16
Acres Irrigated	27	65
Sprinkler System		
Operations	110	44
Acres Irrigated	17,634	4,200
Drip Irrigation		
Operations	45	23
Acres Irrigated	2,571	602
Irrigated Crops by Type of Crop- (**Figures for 1998 not available)		
Area Under Protection Crops	Number of Farms	Sq. feet Irrigated
Floriculture and Bedding	126	1,599,619
Nursery	33	522,000
Propagative Materials	35	283,447
Food Crops	24	11,520
Acres in the Open-Crops	Number of Farms	Acres Irrigated
Floriculture and Bedding	28	285
Nursery	67	1,488
Propagative Materials	4	310
Sod	57	17,647
Christmas Trees	10	50



For more information:

www.nass.usda.gov

www.agcensus.usda.gov

Agricultural Statistics Hotline:
(800)727-9540

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